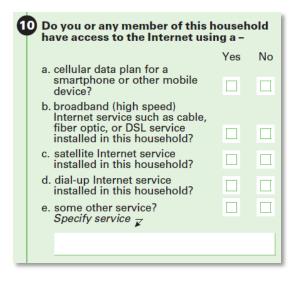# American Community Survey (ACS)
Why We Ask: Computer and Internet Use

We ask about the computers that people use, Internet access, and how people access the Internet, to create statistics about computer and Internet use. These statistics are used to measure the nationwide development of broadband networks and to inform those groups working to decrease barriers to broadband access.

8 At this house, apartment, or mobile home – do you or any member of this household own or use any of the following types of computer?

	Yes	No
a. Desktop or laptop	☐	☐
b. Smartphone	☐	☐
c. Tablet or other portable wireless computer	☐	☐
d. Some other type of computer Specify ➘	☐	☐

9 At this house, apartment, or mobile home – do you or any member of this household have access to the Internet?

☐ Yes, by paying a cell phone company or Internet service provider

☐ Yes, without paying a cell phone company or Internet service provider ➔ *SKIP to question 11*

☐ No access to the Internet at this house, apartment, or mobile home ➔ *SKIP to question 11*

10 Do you or any member of this household have access to the Internet using a –

	Yes	No
a. cellular data plan for a smartphone or other mobile device?	☐	☐
b. broadband (high speed) Internet service such as cable, fiber optic, or DSL service installed in this household?	☐	☐
c. satellite Internet service installed in this household?	☐	☐
d. dial-up Internet service installed in this household?	☐	☐
e. some other service? Specify service ➘	☐	☐

The questions as they appear on the 2016 ACS paper questionnaire. This topic was added to the ACS in 2013 and modified for 2016.

Examples of Federal Uses

- Required to evaluate national broadband access and adoption rates, with specific focus on underserved areas.

Examples of Other Uses

State and local agencies can use these statistics to evaluate access to broadband in their communities. Before distributing important public health or safety information, agencies, businesses, and non-profits can use these statistics to decide what kinds of outreach methods to use. Knowing how many people have access to computers and the Internet helps these groups communicate more effectively with their customers, and plan other outreach including ecommerce.